

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Muraji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,867,582, hereinafter Muraji).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on July 16, 2007. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review when a response is filed. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Muraji. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a space between said stator and said rotor, defining over substantially 360°, as a main air gap including at least two moveable magnetic poles." Muraji does not disclose or suggest this element of Claim 1.

As discussed during the above-noted interview, element 146a of Muraji is part of the rotor, even though it is called "stator." Col. 8, line 56 states "the moveable magnets 144 and 145 and the third stator 146a are fixed to the rotor and are able to rotate freely." Thus, element 146a is part of the rotor set.

Furthermore, the terms rotor and stator, as far as the definition of an air gap is concerned, refer to the parts having a magnetic function. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would make the difference between the non-magnetic part 146 and the magnetic part 146a. Fig. 7A of Muraji confirms that diagonally hatched zones are non-magnetic parts (like element 146) and vertically hatched zones are magnetic parts (like elements 146a, 141, and 142).

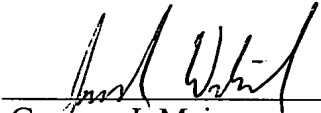
Thus, as far as an air gap is concerned, the rotor is 146a and the stator is 142. The zone separating the stator 142 and the rotor 146a, and through which passes the magnetic field (i.e., the air gap), is thus a radial air space extending on roughly 240°.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and Claims 2-19 dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Muraji.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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